

Remarks

For your convenience I repeat the following considerations about Claim 1 from my previous letters. They exclude any suggestions of anticipation by the previous art for my Claim 1:

- According to Claim 1 the bearing portion and the outer portion are connected by 'mating connection means', that implies direct contact of two elements. Therefore, my invention is not anticipated by Thackara (USPN 2766473) where the corresponding parts (the cap 16 and the cap 25) are independently mounted on the axle 13.
- According to Claim 1 the bearing portion and the outer portion are connected by 'mating connection means'. My invention is not anticipated by Newman's patent (USPN 3745624) that describes 'a pair of independent frame units rotatable on a spindle of the paint roller' since these frame units do not form any mating connection.
- According to Claim 1, the outer portion comprises 'a supporting surface to support the paint roller sleeve' and is 'removable to permit replacement of the roller sleeve'. Claim 1 cannot be anticipated by Dezen (USPN 4467509) where the supporting surface 66 belongs to the outer end member 40 that is *permanently* mounted 'on the shaft 28 similar to the member 36'.

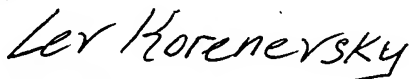
The removable outer portion in Claim 1 combines three key structural elements that were *never* combined in similar removable parts (outer end caps) in the previous art. The outer portion comprises 'an annular (inner) face against which an adjacent (inner) end surface of the roller sleeve core can be urged' (1), 'a supporting surface to support the paint roller sleeve' (2), and is connected to the bearing portion with the help of 'mating connection means' (3).

The annular face (1) is present in Thackara's, Newman's, and Dezen's designs too. However with respect to (2), my design differs from Dezen's design (though it is similar to Thackara's and Newman's designs). At the same time, with respect to (3) my design differs from Thackara's and Newman's designs (though it is similar to Dezen's design).

I hope that the remarks above clearly explain why my Claim 1 is not anticipated by the three patents mentioned in your Final Action. Since my remaining claims are dependent on Claim 1, this would be sufficient to accept all the claims.

Please call 847-809-8762 or 630-706-4553 to reach me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Lev Korenevsky
07/16/2004